Committee to Restore Carbondale City Hall, Inc.

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WHY SHOULD CARBONDALE CITY HALL BE RESTORED?

Carbondale City Hall, erected in 1859 and renovated and enlarged in 1892-1894, has been the seat of the government of the city of Carbondale for 123 years. Such a building was not erected for the use of one generation or five generations or ten generations. Such a building was erected for all generations, for all time. It is, therefore, the responsibility of every generation of Carbondaleans to maintain and to transmit to the following generation a healthy building. It is now our turn to look after City Hall and to make certain that the building that we bequeath to our children is as vigorous as the building that we inherited from our parents. If it is not, it is we who will bear the burden of shame. If it is, it is we who will be credited with having had faith not only in ourselves and in our city, but also in our children and the city that we bequeath to them.

Carbondale City Hall is a tangible link that we, the citizens of Carbondale, have with the past. Because of Carbondale City Hall, we know that we have roots, deep roots. Because of Carbondale City Hall, our lives, therefore, have stability, our lives have depth, our lives have meaning. Incarnated in Carbondale City Hall, it must not be forgotten, is a credo, a way of life. If we abandon Carbondale City Hall, we abandon a way of life that is unique and that can not, at any price, be recreated. We must, therefore, at all costs, restore Carbondale City Hall.

THE FUTURE OF CARBONDALE CITY HALL AND THE FUTURE OF THE CITY OF CARBONDALE ARE INSEPARABLE.

The responsibility of the present generation to look after City Hall is particularly great for two reasons: (1) many repairs to the exterior of the building have to be made now, (2) the economy of northeastern Pennsylvania is not now as healthy as it was when Carbondale City Hall was erected. In restoring City Hall to its former beauty, we will be performing an invaluable service not only to the building itself but also to the city of Carbondale. To restore a building such as Carbondale City Hall is to proclaim to one and all that we, the present generation, are proud of Carbondale and of our heritage. It is, at the same time, to proclaim to the world that we have not only respect for Carbondale and its past, but also faith in ourselves and in the future of Carbondale. That respect and that faith and that pride are recognizable in both cities and people. When that respect and that faith and that pride are recognizable in a city and in the inhabitants of that city, industrial prospects are attracted to, and ultimately locate in, that city. Not only does the industrial prospect have a bright future when it locates in such a city, the city itself has a bright future. In the long run, therefore, everyone benefits when people and cities are proud of, and have respect for, the past, and faith in the future.

That we, as citizens of Carbondale, are proud of Carbondale and have respect for Carbondale and its past, and have, at the same time, faith in ourselves and in the future of Carbondale must be made known to all industrial prospects who are thinking of locating in Carbondale. One of the ways that we can proclaim to one and all that we have decided to invest in Carbondale--past, present and future--(and that THEY, therefore, should invest in Carbondale) is to restore Carbondale City Hall.

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION IN CARBONDALE MAKES SENSE.

1. HISTORICAL PRESERVATION IS CHEAPER THAN NEW CONSTRUCTION. Consultants hired by the Illinois Landmarks Council, with a grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, demonstrated, in a recent study, that new construction costs $80 per square foot, whereas renovation and restoration costs $55 per square foot. When Chicago's mayor Jane Byrne was made aware of these differences in costs, she was so impressed that she ordered significant changes in the City's plan for redeveloping the North Loop. Numerous studies show that older buildings can be rehabilitated for 30%-40% less than the cost of constructing a new one.

2. HISTORICAL PRESERVATION CREATES JOBS. Not only does restoration cost less, it employs nearly 60% more workers than new construction. This reduces unemployment and welfare rolls, increases the number of taxpaying citizens and improves the character of the community.